

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /096 W
-----301301Z 051202 /46

R 290950Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7191
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NY
CINCEUR

S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 0642

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MR
SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: NEWFOUND CONCERN ABOUT POLISARIO

REF: (A) ALGIERS 788, (B) ALGIERS 668

1. ACCUMULATING EVIDENCE OF POLISARIO STAYING POWER, DETERMINATION, AND ABOVE ALL EXPANDING MILITARY CAPABILITIES HAS BEGUN TO HIT HOME IN NOUAKCHOTT. THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY REGARDED POLISARIO GUERRILLA WAR WITH CONCERN HAVE RECENTLY BECOME ACTIVELY APPREHENSIVE RE IMPACT OF ONGOING POLITICAL AND MILITARY ASSAULT ON MAURITANIA. THOSE WHO PREVIOUSLY VIEWED POLISARIO AS PHONY POLITICAL ENTITY OWING ITS EXISTENCE TO ALGERIAN WILL AND SUBSIDY AND POLISARIO MILITARY ATTACKS AS ANNOYING BUT IN-
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SIGNIFICANT HAVE OF LATE COME TO WORRY (PRIVATELY) ABOUT MOUNTING EVIDENCE OF EXPANDING POLISARIO MILITARY CAPABILITY; AND HAVE BEGUN TO WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER THIS PERSISTENT DRAIN ON MAURITANIA'S ENERGIES, RESOURCES AND COLLECTIVE WILL IS GOING TO GO ON.

2. MINISTER INDUSTRIALIZATION RAJEL TOLD ME MARCH 22 THAT

POLISARIO WAR HAD TAKEN ON "WHOLE NEW LOOK" IN LAST FEW WEEKS WITH SWEEPING GESTURE DESCRIBING ARC ACROSS MAP FROM DAKHLA TO NE'MA, RAJEL NOTED POLISARIO NOT ONLY HAD CAPABILITY NOW OF STRIKING ANYWHERE ALONG THIS ARC BUT OF MOUNTING SEVERAL ATTACKS ALONG IT SIMULTANEOUSLY. THEN, APPARENTLY AS MUCH TO CONVINCE HIMSELF AS TO REASSURE ME, MINISTER OBSERVED THAT "WE ARE EASILY ABLE TO HOLD THEM OFF".

3. FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US AHMEDOU 'ABDALLAH AFTER TEN-DAY PULSE-TAKING CONSULTATIONS VISIT TO MAURITANIA DEPARTED MARCH 23 CONVINCED THAT PERSISTENT POLISARIO WAR IS ONE OF TWO PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING MAURITANIA AND OULD DADDAH GOVERNMENT (OTHER WAS ECONOMIC MALAISE). MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO NOW AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM 'ABDALLAH, POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS MAURITANIANS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FRIENDS ARE FOR FIRST TIME IN HIS MEMORY OPENLY CRITICIZING PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH FOR HIS HANDLING OF TWO PRIME PROBLEMS. SOME ARE EVEN SUGGESTING THAT OULD DADDAH, LIKE AN OLD DOG, IS BEYOND LEARNING HOW TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS LIKE THESE WHICH HE HAS NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED.

4. IN ADDITION TO UNSETTLING IMPACT ON POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (REPORTS OF DISSATISFACTION IN MILITARY COME TO HAND WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY), CORROSIVE MIXTURE OF ENDLESS WAR AND FINANCIAL SCANDAL HAS ALSO INTRODUCED NEW BITTERNESS IN BLACK-MOORISH RELATIONSHIPS. OR PERHAPS MORE ACCURATELY, HAS EATEN AWAY SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY IMPOSED TOLERANCE REVEALING REALITY UNDERNEATH.

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5. THIS IS INCREASINGLY A QUEAZY SOCIETY/POLICY ON WAY TO BECOMING ACTIVELY SICK. WEEK AGO, SPANISH AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERED OBSERVATION WHICH REINFORCED MY OWN CONCERNS (NOUAKCHOTT 247 AND 261 FOR EXAMPLE): "SITUATION HERE NOW IS BAD, IN FACT IT'S WORST I'VE SEEN SINCE I ARRIVED LAST JUNE (1976)".

HANDYSIDE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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